

Session Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2026

Attendance

- **Present:** Cheryl Chrisman, Gene Gant, Sandy Groves, Jan Harrell, Mike Ireland, David Kaeb, Barbara Meek, Sara Palmgren, Rich Schroeder, Mark Ulbrich, Mark Wylie
- **Excused:** Martha Everman
- **Guest:** Laurie Sprague
- **Moderator:** Rev. Trey Haddon
- **Clerk:** Bill Cummins

Call to Order

The meeting was held in F202 and Pastor Trey Haddon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and opened with prayer.

A **motion** to approve the agenda for the meeting was offered by Elder Barbara Meek and seconded by Elder Cheryl Chrisman. The motion **passed**.

Old Business

A **motion** for approval of the minutes for the Session on March 24, 2026 was offered by Elder Sara Palmgren and seconded by Elder Sandy Groves. The motion **passed**.

A **motion** to approve the minutes for the Leadership Training on April 25, 2026 was offered by Elder David Kaeb and seconded by Elder Rich Schroeder. The motion **passed**.

New Business

Enrichment and Devotions. Pastor Trey asked for thoughts on the Lenten study and the study of the Book of John.

Cheryl said that she loved getting the perspective of so many others and being able to hear their voice in the devotion.

Rich said that it was a challenge and that he wondered if he could do it. Rich said that struggling with the process prompted him to think about what else he should do. Mark said it was a topic of conversation at church and a source of positive greetings and that reading through the Book of John was great for Advent. Trey said this caused him to reinspect the Book and gave him the need to preach on selections he had not yet used.

The discussion became lively – Sara said that being told to sit with the passage and to think about (pray about) what to say and how meaningful it was to be able to do that. Further, everyone agreed how meaningful it was to hear from all the church and the daily devotional was directed and encouraging. Rich said that it gave perspective on how the work of a pastor is so much daily work.

Sara said we could hear the voice and know what the writer was dealing with and you could hear them reading to you. Each day was different and written differently. It was refreshing to the differences and something to look forward to.

Elder Jan Harrell likened the experience to the daily devotions that were imbedded in the Choir tours, where each youth said the message in their voice. Jan thought that the Advent messages deepened her understanding for the people and the passages.

David Kaeb said that the variety of approaches from each person was great

Pastor Trey said that he wanted to have a similar devotion where he asked community leaders to develop a study, maybe for Advent. Trey said it was his joy to hear the meaningfulness that this brought to us and to the church. Trey praised the work Sydney did to pull the study, the announcements and the graphics to pull this project off.

Trey asked Session how this study affected our own spiritual lives? Another lively discussion with personal reflections.

Joys of Ministry. Sara said that the Confirmation retreat was delightful. Sara said that Taylor Johnson was shadowing Kim and developing her own workflow.

Laurie Sprague said that the celebration for the Preschool and the Earth Day Sunday were great but also the planning and the creativity of the worship team were so cool. She gave kudos to Brian and Dennis for their amazing work.

Jan said that she wanted to applaud Gerald for studying and passing the next level of his Food Handler certification.

Sandy said that she attended another concert of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and was given two testimonials about our acoustics and how the musicians loved to play here.

Elder Mark Wylie said the 50th anniversary dinner, after 28 years still brings joy to the church. Mark also said a joy that was bittersweet, to have known and now lost several members this month.

Trey said it was a joy to have had 250 in service to celebrate preschool and it was joyful and the former students who are now adults, and the children and families. Trey also said that Easter is his Christmas and that the celebrations of Easter were wonderful.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had no report, particularly as he did not attend the April 25, 2026 Assembly. Bill said he would forward the minutes from Presbytery.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Trey gave thanks to all the volunteers that come to the church every day. They help usher, park cars, welcome people as they enter, help feed people, help Gerald in the kitchen, help Paul clean, pick up bulletins after the service, and all the other things it takes to be a church family. Trey specially mentioned the funeral volunteers; we have had a number of funerals this month and he is particularly aware of all that they do.

Trey also commended the collaborative work that Dennis and Brian do and their ability to bring the music together.

Session **moved** to accept the reports and the motion **passed**.

Other Business

A **motion** to approve the consent agenda was **approved**.

Closing Prayer

A **motion** to adjourn was requested by the moderator and **approved** by the Session. After Pastor Trey's prayer, meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully recorded and submitted:

Bill Cummins, Clerk